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GREAT YARMOUTH

URBAN AND PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1943

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TOWN HALL,
GREAT YARMOUTH.

1943.

To the Town Council of the County Borough of Great Yarmouth acting as the Urban and Port Sanitary Authorities.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Fifth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. Again this year, the Report has been cut to the smallest possible dimensions and records only the vital statistics and changes brought about as a result of the War.

I am pleased to be able to report that in spite of a depleted staff, the various Clinics, Centres etc., have all been able to function during the year.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, also the Staff of my Department, for their loyal support during the year.

The comparative vital statistics for the year 1943 are shown in the following table:-

	Gt. Yarmouth.	England & Wales.	London.	126 Great Towns.
Death Rate per 1000 estimated population	18.63.	12. 1.	15.0.	14.2.
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 live births	41.50.	49.	58.	58.
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	22.99.	16.5.	15.8.	18.6.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WAINWRIGHT.
Medical Officer of Health.

HOSPITALS.

The Public Assistance Auxiliary Institution has remained open throughout the year, accommodating 150 patients - others have been placed in neighbouring Institutions.

The Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals have continued to provide the requirements necessary for the civilian population in addition to the treatment required for air-raid casualties and Service Cases under the Ministry of Health's Emergency Hospital Service.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Borough Isolation Hospital remained open throughout the year.

All Civilian and Service Cases of Infectious Diseases have been accommodated.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In Great Yarmouth Clinics have been held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Middlegate Street Rooms. As pointed out in previous reports these premises leave much to be desired, but attempts to find more suitable accommodation have so far been unsuccessful.

A Clinic has been held on Wednesday afternoon at the Old Cottage Hospital, Trafalgar Road, Gorleston. This has been well attended. An additional Ante-Natal Clinic has been held on Monday afternoon.

The Government National Milk Scheme for Dried Milk has worked satisfactorily. In addition, Cod Liver Oil has been issued for children from birth to 5 years, and Orange Juice from birth to 5 years. Mothers have been able to procure Ovaltine, Lactagol, and Adexolin.

Diphtheria Immunisation. In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, this work has again been carried out satisfactorily during the year, though the figures show a considerable falling off.

Parents have responded fairly well and the following figures show the number of children who have completed the Course from 1st January 1943 to 31st December 1943.

Under 5 years.	5 - 15 years.
252	106

The Ministry of Health arrangements for evacuating expectant mothers to Maternity Homes in safer areas has been continued. 189 mothers have been sent away during the last month of their pregnancy.

During the year 329 ante-natal visits were paid to the Clinic. The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Centre during the year, and, who at the end of the year were:-

Under 1 year - 555: Over 1 year - 527.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

The Clinics at Yarmouth and Gorleston continued to function as usual during the year. There were 570 attendances in all, including 73 New Cases. In addition, 228 contacts were examined.

In Yarmouth two Clinics were held each week on Monday and Friday mornings respectively. For the benefit of those at work an additional evening Clinic was held from 6 - 8 p.m. on the First Tuesday of each month. Owing to blackout conditions this particular service was suspended during the winter months. The Gorleston Clinic was held each week on Thursday morning.

The usual practice of sending patients to Dr. Chalmers of Norwich for X Ray Examinations has been continued. Those patients undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment have received their treatment at Norwich by Dr. Townsley.

After the war I hope it will be possible for X Ray Examinations to be carried out at the Dispensary by the Tuberculosis Officer. Also the necessary Refills given for those undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment. More frequent visits to the Sanatoria will enable the Tuberculosis Officer to get in closer touch with the patients undergoing treatment there.

Extra milk has been supplied free of charge by the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee to those in need of extra nourishment, who are unable for financial reasons to afford it. Cod Liver Oil and Malt has also been supplied.

Clothing was provided in special cases from a fund administered by the Town Clerk and from the resources of the Women's Voluntary Services. Dental help was also given on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The Tuberculosis Nurse made 1317 domiciliary visits during the year and 11 Ambulance journeys conveying patients to Sanatoria.

On 9th May 1943 the provisions under Memo 266T were put into force under which new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were granted maintenance allowance for themselves and their dependants, These grants, being reimbursable by the Ministry of Health. Later in the year it was agreed by the Health Committee to extend these benefits under powers given in Section 173 Public Health Act 1936, to chronic patients and Non-Pulmonary cases. Miss Shipperbottom the Tuberculosis Nurse was seconded from her other duties as a Health Visitor and School Nurse to act as Assessment Officer.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Clinics have been held by Mr. McKee acting for Mr. Brittain when required. Operation work has been carried out at the General Hospital, or Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich. The Convalescent Hospital is still at Cawston Manor, Aylsham. Some delay has been experienced in obtaining vacancies for Yarmouth patients. The work of the Clinic has been impaired by the difficulty in obtaining delivery of surgical appliances ordered by the Surgeon.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER - 55 cases were notified during 1943. There has been a considerable increase in the incidence over the previous year. The type has been mild.

DIPHTHERIA - 26 cases were notified during the year. One death resulted; this case had not been immunised.

WHOOPING COUGH - 55 cases were notified during the year. This is an increase on last year. This figure represents only a proportion of the actual cases, as quite a number of parents do not call in a Doctor. No death was recorded.

MEASLES - 362 cases were notified, most of these occurred during the first three months of the year - 206 during March. One proved fatal.

TUBERCULOSIS - 37 Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary cases were notified. Accommodation for male cases at Kelling Sanatorium was adequate, but difficulty in finding beds for female patients was experienced at times. 21 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary cases died during the year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER - There were 2 cases notified during the year, amongst both Service and Civilian patients. No death occurred.

CANCER - There were 66 deaths during the year - a slight increase over the previous year.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES - 11 cases of pneumonia were notified. In spite of this figure 17 deaths were returned as a result of pneumonia - in addition 33 deaths were returned as attributable to bronchitis and 14 to other Respiratory Diseases.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES - 2 cases were recorded among children under 2 years during the year.

MATERNITY MORTALITY - 1 case was recorded as having died from maternal causes other than puerperal or post abortive sepsis. 1 case of puerperal pyrexia was notified.

MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT - Unemployment has become almost negligible. The diet of young children has been augmented by the Government allowance of the following, specially rich in vitamins:-

Cod Liver Oil from birth to 5 years.
Orange Juice from birth to 5 years.

In addition, all school children can obtain milk during school attendance, at a reduced cost, or free.

The scheme for providing school meals was put into operation on 9th September 1942. It is becoming increasingly popular with both children and parents. During 1943 an average of 705 meals were served daily.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

Patients requiring treatment attend the Special Clinic at Lowestoft - four Sessions are held each week. The records show some increase in the incidence of this disease. In view of this fact, a local clinic is considered to be necessary. To meet this need plans have been approved by the Ministry of Health to open premises in Estcourt Road during 1944.

HEALTH VISITORS.

There are two vacancies, but owing to war time difficulties it has not been found possible to fill them.

MIDWIVES.

The work of the "ad hoc" Joint Committee was taken over by the Health Committee on 9th November 1942. The following are the figures for the year:-

Number of cases delivered by Midwives	-	169
Number of births attended by Midwives acting as Maternity Nurses	-	119
Number of cases delivered outside the town	-	189
Medical Assistance sent for by Midwives	-	28

SCABIES.

Special hot baths are provided at the St. George's and Stradbroke First Aid Posts. The number of cases treated during the year has been 223. Assistance to the Health Department in supervising the work has been given by the Civil Defence Personnel. In addition 69 intractable cases have been admitted into the Isolation Hospital.

AIR-RAID SHELTERS.

The number using Air Raid Shelters has tended to decrease. This is all to the good.

While it must be admitted that many lives have been saved by their use, it is also true from a hygienic point of view that they are unhealthy as permanent bedrooms. Adequate ventilation with a free circulation of fresh air in any form of shelter, including those of the indoor type, is impossible.

PEDICULOSIS.

In addition to routine cleanliness surveys of school children by the School Nurses, both Midwives and Health Visitors are using every effort by advice and help, to assist cases met with in their work.

Sir

I have pleasure in submitting a resume of the work of my Department during the year 1943. I must again remark the very short staff of Inspectors, whilst war conditions have caused much extra work, and have in consequence, further curtailed some of the ordinary routine work of the Department.

The investigation of complaints, drain testing and the consequent execution of necessary works and repairs again received full attention.

No samples were examined under the Merchandise Marks Acts, but much was done in the examination of Salvage Food Stuffs for animal feeding.

Offensive trades received regular attention.

177 Samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Acts, careful watch being kept on the Milk supply. Four prosecutions were instituted , 2 for added water and 2 for fat deficiency. These resulted in fines of £5 and £1.8.0d. in the former, and £2.0.0. and £1.16.0d. in the latter. 1 case was dismissed.

9 Dairymen were cautioned for slight deficiency in milk fat.

2 Milk Purveyors had their registration s withdrawn.

In addition 58 Milk Samples were submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, 5 of which were positive.

The Town's water supply was frequently sampled and submitted for analysis (particularly after enemy action) until satisfactory results were obtained.

Of the 16 Slaughterhouses in the Borough, 2 are now used under the Government Slaughtering Scheme, but in spite of this fact, a great deal more slaughtering is being done than in pre-war periods, as we kill in this Borough for a great part of Norfolk. Without extra assistance I am able to report having maintained 100% inspection, whilst again relations with the Government Slaughterhouse staffs have always been most amicable.

Regular inspections were made at the bi-weekly markets, food shops and stores.

22 Samples were taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and those were found mostly satisfactory and up to standard.

146 houses were condemned under Section 11 of the Housing Act as an emergency measure, but otherwise these activities had regretfully to be curtailed owing to the war.

Much useful work continued under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act in the Borough; in the Port and on Shipboard 1846 Rats are known to have been destroyed.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,

G.H. SPINKS.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1943.

TABLE A.

	Number Inspected.		Number Reported Defective.	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
	By the M.O.H.	By the Inspector.			
Total Foreign	3	10	2	2	Nil.
Total Coastwise	18	44	9	8	Nil.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No of cases during 1943.		No of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Chicken Pox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No of cases during 1943.		No of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
-	-	-	-

V. Measures against Rodents.

No rat-catcher has been appointed especially for the Port, but the Urban rat-catcher acts. Ships in the Port are regarded as houses in the town. In this connection 78 ships were visited by the Rat Officer during the year. There were no ships from plague infected ports. No duly infested ship was found.

VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected 1943	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other unhealthy conditions.
British	62	-	1	16
Other Nations	13	-	-	2

CANAL BOAT ACTS.

During the year 8 boats were inspected, and these were generally found to be very clean and well kept, and in no case were there female or children permanently residing on board.

There has again been no case of sickness on board a canal boat during the year.

REGISTRATION MATTERS.

There were no fresh registrations during the year.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS 1920 and 1938.

HOME TEACHER'S REPORT.

For the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Miss Howe was appointed as Home Teacher for the Blind on 2nd October of this year, after having qualified for same in July, and submits her First Annual Report in connection with the work under the above Acts.

The administration in connection with the Blind Persons Acts has met with many difficulties, and the work has had to be divided into two Sections, i.e. at the Evacuation Centre, Burnham Hall and amongst the Blind Persons of the Borough.

The statistical particulars are given below, the age groups also being shown:-

Number of Registered Blind December 1942		190
Number of New Cases during the year		14
No of Cases transferred into the Borough		3
		207
Number of Deaths during the year	11	
Number of Removals from District	1	12
Number of Registered Blind December 1943		195

	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	-	-	-
Between 5 and 16 years	-	-	-
" 16 and 21 "	2	2	4
" 21 and 40 "	4	9	13
" 40 and 50 "	11	4	15
" 50 and 65 "	27	27	54
" 65 and 70 "	14	14	28
Over 70 years	44	57	81
	102	93	195

Four Persons are employed at the Norwich Institution for the Blind. One is employed at the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Bradford. Also one copyist is attached to the National Library for the Blind.

Application was made for the State Pension on behalf of 5 persons, and during the year 46 applications were considered for the Corporation Allowance. At the end of the year there were 108 recipients of the Corporation Allowance.

631 visits were made to Blind Persons during the year. 2 Persons have learned Braille and have joined the National Library for the Blind.

Rambles for the more active were organised during the summer months to Burgh Castle, Caister and Hopton.

The Christmas gift of 5/- was distributed to all Registered Blind Persons ordinarily resident in the Borough.

During January 2 cwts of coal were distributed to 18 cases of extreme hardship.

The amount collected at the Annual Flag Day was increased from £175/12/- to £183/8/3d.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS

1913 - 1938.

Supervision Officer's Report

For the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Miss Redhead submits her Fifth Annual Report of work under the above Acts.

11 New Cases have been added to the Register this year. A number of these have been cases referred by the Education Committee of children requiring special School Education.

1 Child aged 5 has been suitably placed under Guardianship and is making good progress.

2 Cases have been admitted into Little Plumstead during the year.

1 Case at Besford Court has been detained there as a 'place of safety' pending the signature of the father for his certification.

All the 11 evacuees sent to Little Plumstead in 1940 have now been certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts; this makes a total of 31 Cases in Little Plumstead at the end of the year .

In September The Medical Officer of Health, the Chairman (Mr. Hollis) and the Supervision Officer, paid a visit to Little Plumstead Hall. The report states that all the patients were in extremely good health, well cared for and that the arrangements in the Institution were entirely satisfactory.

Owing to war conditions there is nothing to report in connection with the Occupation Centre, neither has it been possible to arrange any Social events or Outings during the year.

All cases residing in the Borough have been regularly visited by the Supervision Officer. A total of 197 visits have been made. The ascertainment of New Cases and the following up of consequent particulars concerning them have been dealt with.

In addition a considerable amount of time has been spent by the Medical Officer of Health and the Supervision Officer in visiting the Elementary Schools conducting Mental Tests on children reported to be dull or backward.

Miss Redhead has also given help in the general duties of the Health Department.